

DAREDEVIL

MARVEL COMICS GROUP<sup>TM</sup>



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# DAREDEVIL<sup>®</sup>

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!



CO-STARRING  
The DEADLY  
BLACK  
WIDOW!

I PUT YOU  
DOWN FOR THE  
**COUNT,**  
HERO-MAN--

--AND THIS  
TIME, YOU'RE  
**NOT**  
GETTING UP!

**CHAOS IS THE  
CRUSHER!**



He dwells in eternal night— but the blackness is filled with sounds and scents, tastes and textures other men cannot perceive. For though attorney MATT MURDOCK is *blind*, his other four senses function with *superhuman sharpness*—his uncanny *radar sense* guides him over every obstacle! Armed only with his *billy club*, his fighting skill, and his courage, he stalks the streets by night, a relentless red-garbed foe of evil!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!**™

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**THEY'RE TEARING DOWN FOGWELL'S GYM!**

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME MATT MURDOCK, A.K.A. DAREDEVIL, HAD A GOOD DAY?

WELL, THIS IS IT!

CONSIDER: IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, HE'S SEEN D.A. FOGGY NELSON, HIS FRIEND AND PARTNER, RECOVERED COMPLETELY FROM AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, AND CANDACE NELSON, THE D.A.'S SISTER, RESCUED FROM POSSIBLE CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST HER.

ON A SOMEWHAT LARGER SCALE, HE'S JUST SAVED THE WORLD.\*

BUT, MUCH MORE IMPORTANTLY, A SAN FRANCISCAN-BORN TELEGRAM HAS JUST INFORMED HIM THAT...

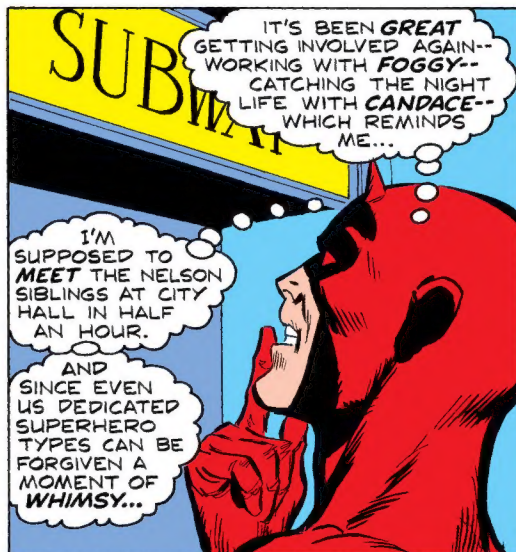
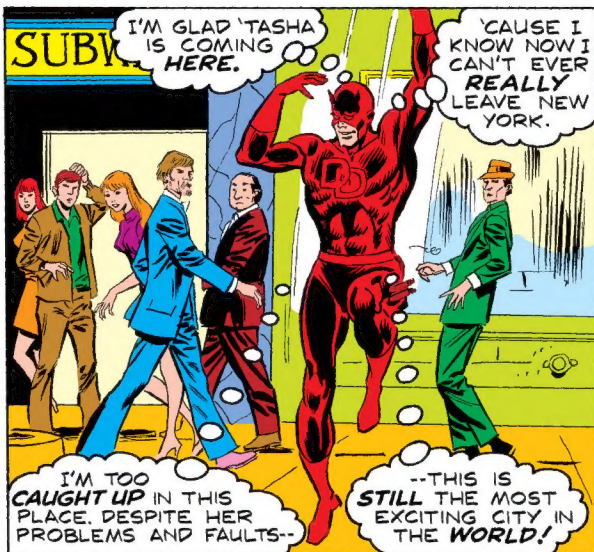
THE BLACK WIDOW'S COMING BACK TO NEW YORK!

\*GIANT-SIZE DEFENDERS #3 -- LEN W.

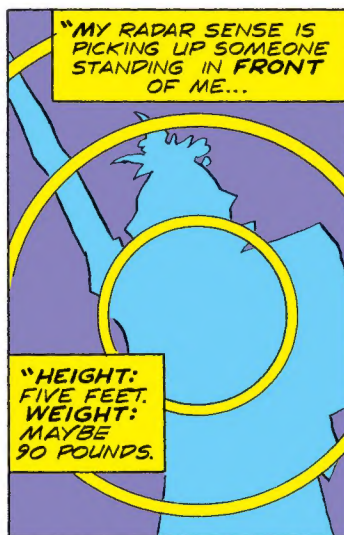
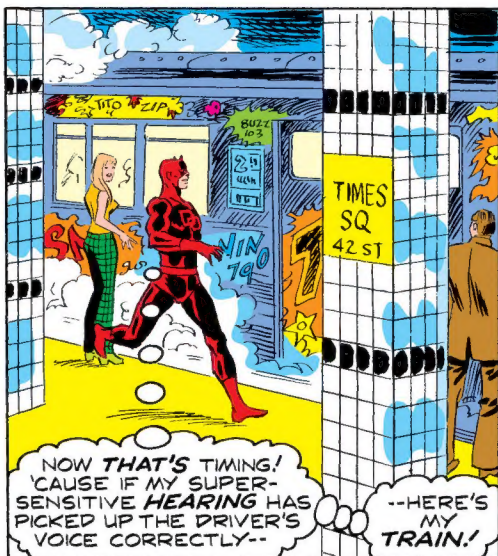














**FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER:**

YOU KNOW, MR. DARE-DEVIL, I FIGURED YOU **STRAIGHT AWAY** AS A RIGHT-THINKING SUPERHERO.

**ALL** I SAID WAS THAT P.A. NELSON WAS...

SOME OF THESE COSTUMED **PUNKS** ...EXCUSE ME... AREN'T ANY BETTER THAN THE GUYS THEY FIGHT.

PARDON ME, SIR, BUT I HAVE AN **APPOINT...**

YOU TAKE **SPIDER-MAN**, FOR EXAMPLE. ALWAYS TORMENTING A FINE, UP-  
STANDING CITIZEN LIKE J. JONAH JAMESON. OR SOME OF THOSE **FREAKS** THE AVENGERS HAVE TAKEN IN...

NOPE, YOU'RE MY KIND OF SUPERHERO. WORKING WITH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY --SHOWING THOSE **ANIMALS** OUT THERE THAT CRIME DOESN'T PAY.

SAY, DID YOU EVER THINK OF RUNNING FOR **OFFICE** OR-- HEY, WHERE'D YOU GO?

WOW-- WAIT'LL I TELL BLANCHE THAT I **TALKED** TO DAREDEVIL HIMSELF!

GIVE 'EM ONE FOR ME, **DD!**

OH, BROTHER!

A FEW MORE **CHEERLEADERS** LIKE THAT WALKING SOAP BOX COULD GIVE A GUY **SECOND THOUGHTS** ABOUT THE HERO BIT.

HEY, SLOW DOWN, FELLA. NO MATTER **HOW** OFTEN YOU'VE BEEN HERE IN THE PAST, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A **BLIND MAN**.

DON'T WALK **QUITE** SO CONFIDENTLY.

"SUPPOSED TO BE?" MY OTHER SENSES COMPENSATE FOR MY LACK OF SIGHT SO MUCH THAT I ALMOST FORGET I REALLY **AM** BLIND.

ALMOST.

MY OWN PRIVATE "**RADAR**" TELLS ME THE NELSON CLAN HAS PRECEDED ME, SO...

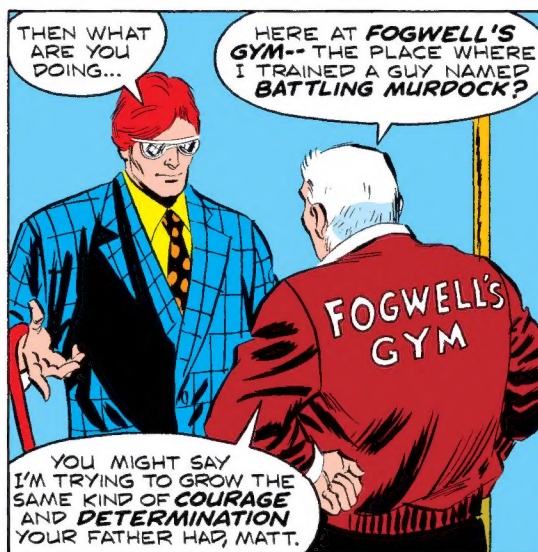
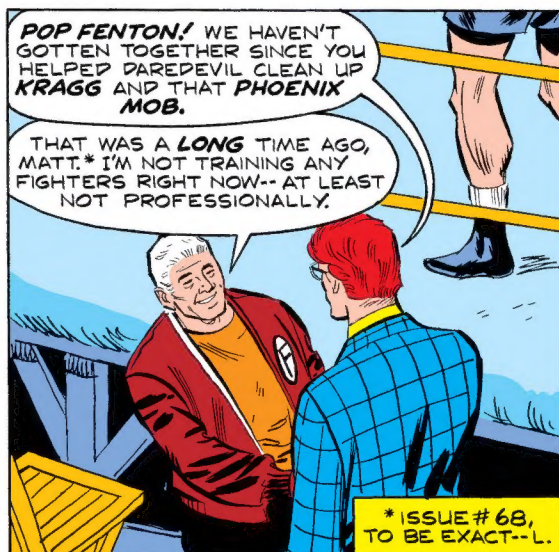
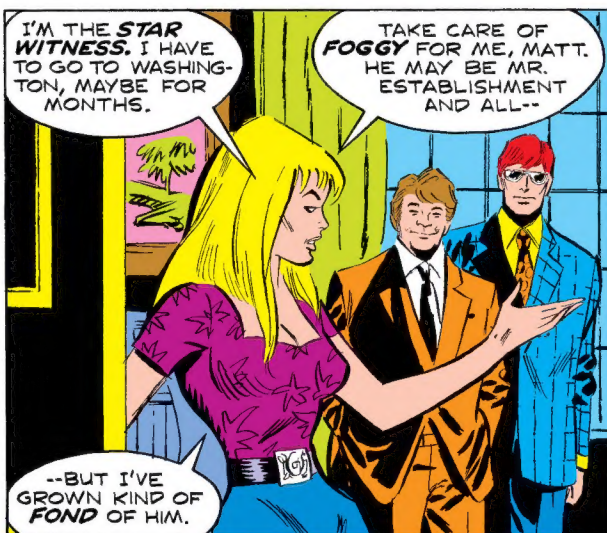
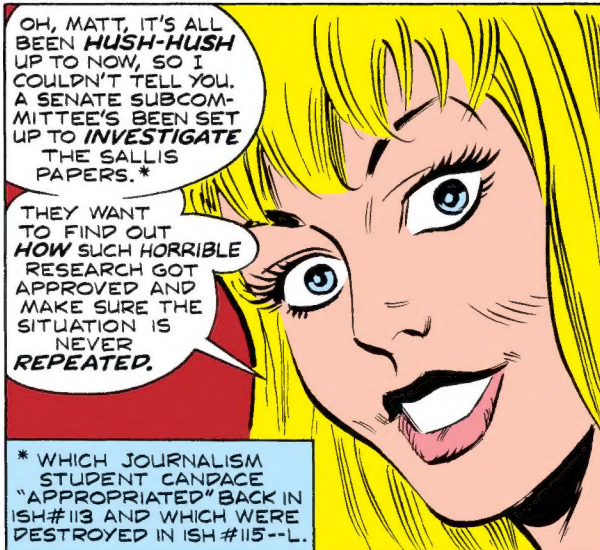
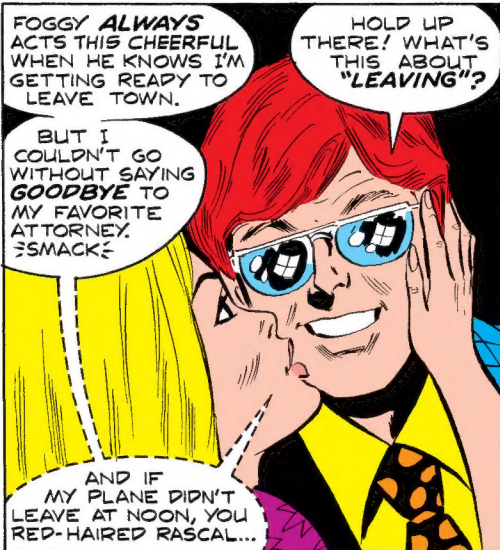
I HEAR THE RIGHTEOUS **LAUGHTER** OF A GOOD-NATURED FELLOW AND THE **SEXY VOICE** OF A DAMSEL FAIR.

IT CAN ONLY BE **DONNY AND MARIE OSMOND!**

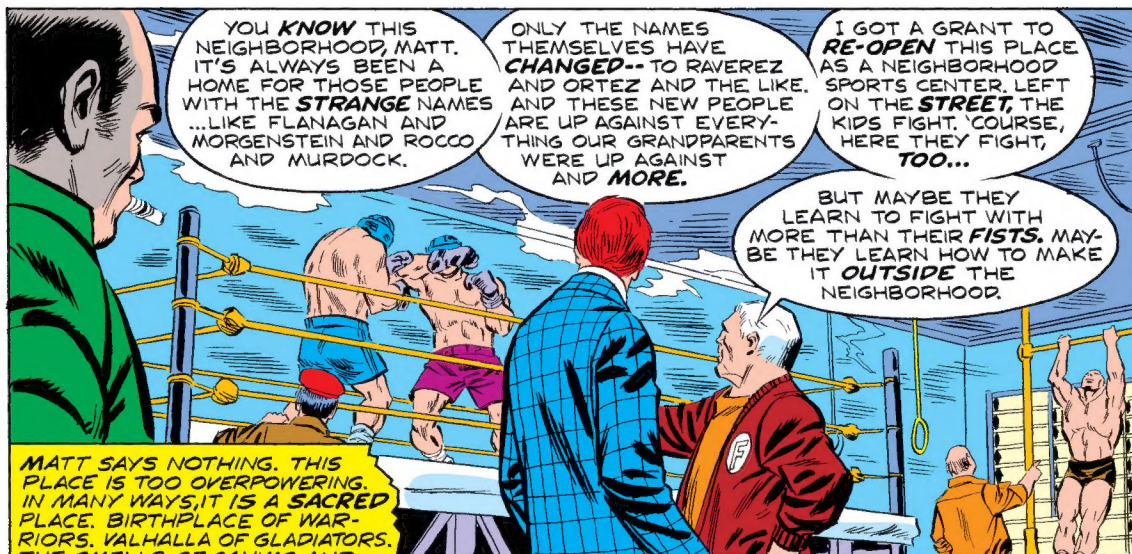
HIYA, MATT!

WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE? I DON'T SEEM TO **RECALL** YOU TWO BEING ALL THAT **THRILLED** WITH EACH OTHER.









YOU **KNOW** THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, MATT. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A HOME FOR THOSE PEOPLE WITH THE **STRANGE** NAMES ...LIKE FLANAGAN AND MORGENSTEIN AND ROCCO AND MURDOCK.

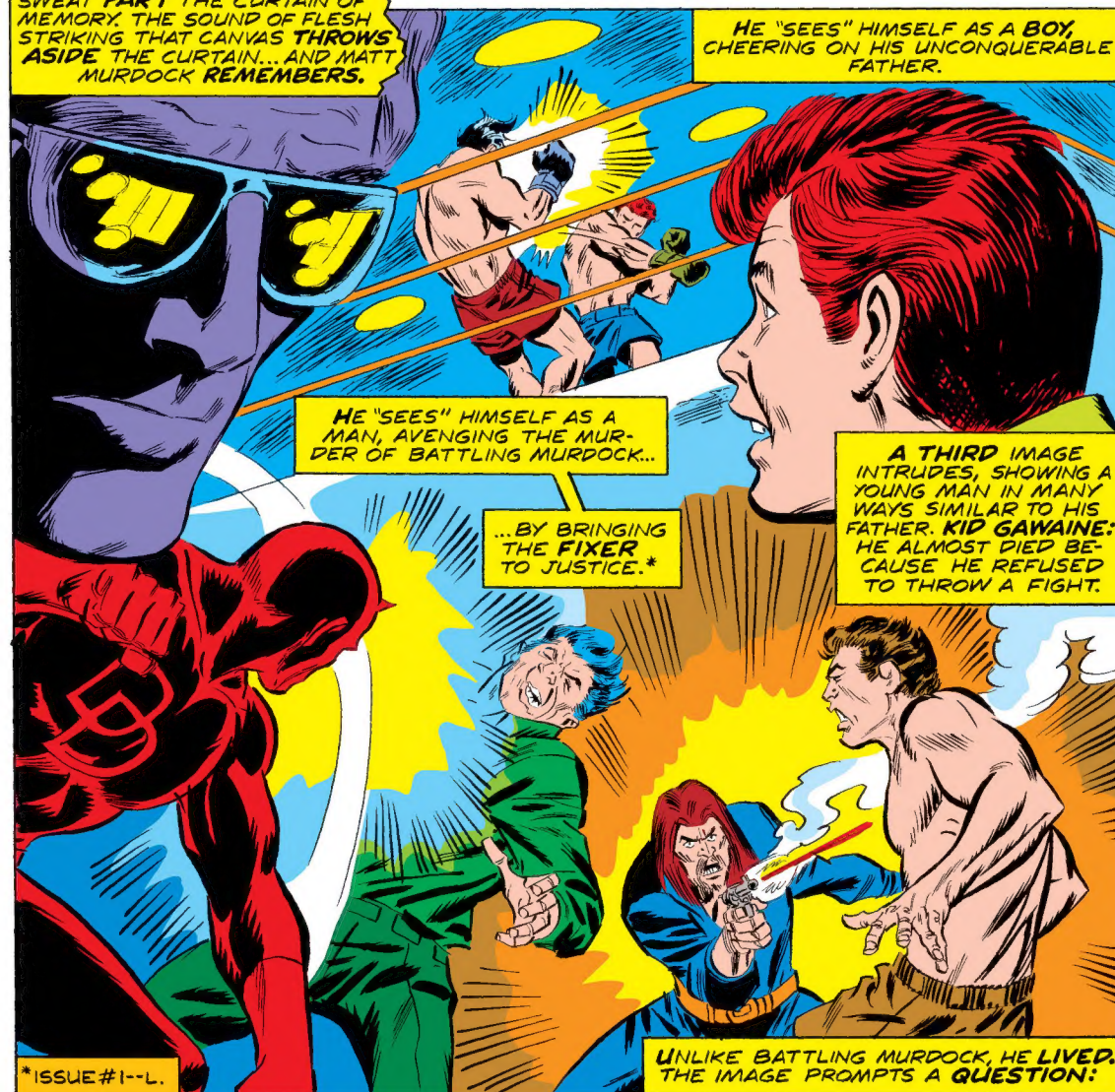
ONLY THE NAMES THEMSELVES HAVE **CHANGED--** TO RAVEREZ AND ORTEZ AND THE LIKE. AND THESE NEW PEOPLE ARE UP AGAINST EVERYTHING OUR GRANDPARENTS WERE UP AGAINST AND **MORE.**

I GOT A GRANT TO **RE-OPEN** THIS PLACE AS A NEIGHBORHOOD SPORTS CENTER. LEFT ON THE **STREET**, THE KIDS FIGHT. 'COURSE, HERE THEY FIGHT, **TOO...**

BUT MAYBE THEY LEARN TO FIGHT WITH MORE THAN THEIR **FISTS**. MAYBE THEY LEARN HOW TO MAKE IT **OUTSIDE** THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

MATT SAYS NOTHING. THIS PLACE IS TOO OVERPOWERING. IN MANY WAYS, IT IS A **SACRED** PLACE. BIRTHPLACE OF WARRIORS. VALHALLA OF GLADIATORS. THE SMELLS OF CANVAS AND SWEAT **PART** THE CURTAIN OF MEMORY. THE SOUND OF FLESH STRIKING THAT CANVAS **THROWS ASIDE** THE CURTAIN... AND MATT MURDOCK REMEMBERS.

HE "SEES" HIMSELF AS A BOY, CHEERING ON HIS UNCONQUERABLE FATHER.



HE "SEES" HIMSELF AS A MAN, AVENGING THE MURDER OF BATTLING MURDOCK...

...BY BRINGING THE **FIXER** TO JUSTICE.\*

A **THIRD** IMAGE INTRUDES, SHOWING A YOUNG MAN IN MANY WAYS SIMILAR TO HIS FATHER. **KID GAWAINE:** HE ALMOST DIED BECAUSE HE REFUSED TO THROW A FIGHT.

UNLIKE BATTLING MURDOCK, HE **LIVED.** THE IMAGE PROMPTS A **QUESTION:**





WHAT HAPPENED TO **KID GAWAINE**, POP? SINCE HE BEAT THE PHOENIX MOB, I HAVEN'T HEARD **ANYTHING** ABOUT HIM.

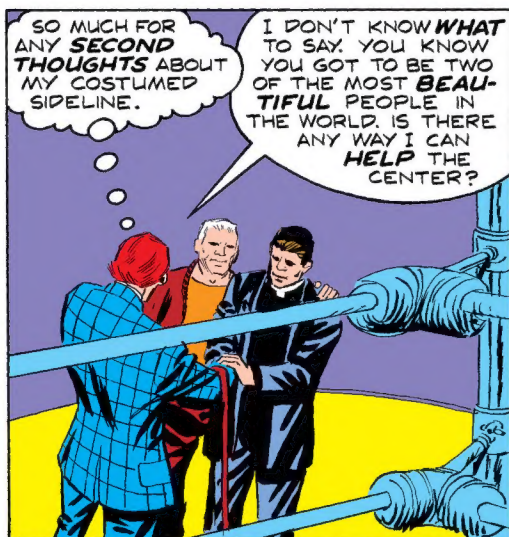
COULD BE THERE'S A **REASON** FOR THAT, MR. MURDOCK.



BUT IT'S PROBABLY BEST SUMMED UP BY SAYING THE NAME IS NOW **FATHER GAWAINE**.

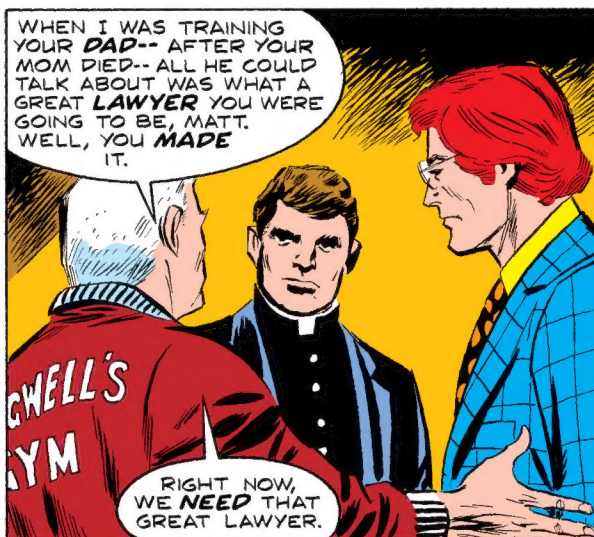
AFTER SEEING **DAREDEVIL** IN ACTION, I THOUGHT A LOT-- DECIDED THERE WERE MORE **IMPORTANT** THINGS TO BE FIGHTING AGAINST THAN OTHER BOXERS.

THIS SEEMED THE **BEST** WAY OF FIGHTING THEM.



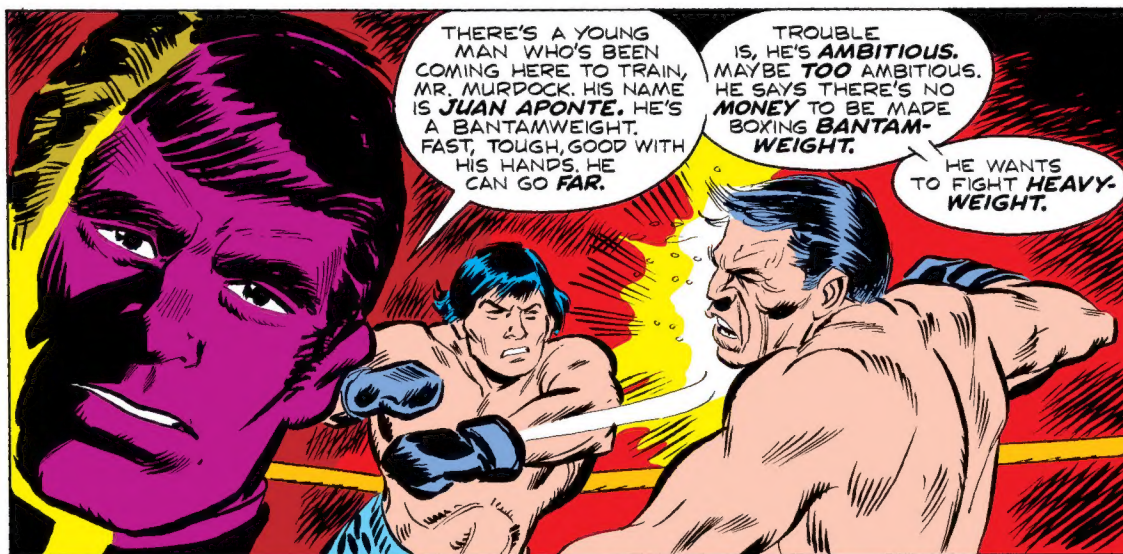
SO MUCH FOR ANY **SECOND THOUGHTS** ABOUT MY COSTUMED SIDELINE.

I DON'T KNOW **WHAT** TO SAY. YOU KNOW YOU GOT TO BE TWO OF THE MOST **BEAUTIFUL** PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. IS THERE ANY WAY I CAN **HELP** THE CENTER?



WHEN I WAS TRAINING YOUR **DAD**-- AFTER YOUR MOM DIED-- ALL HE COULD TALK ABOUT WAS WHAT A GREAT **LAWYER** YOU WERE GOING TO BE, MATT. WELL, YOU **MADE** IT.

RIGHT NOW, WE **NEED** THAT GREAT **LAWYER**.

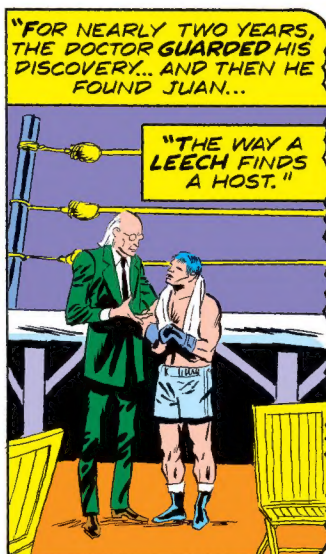
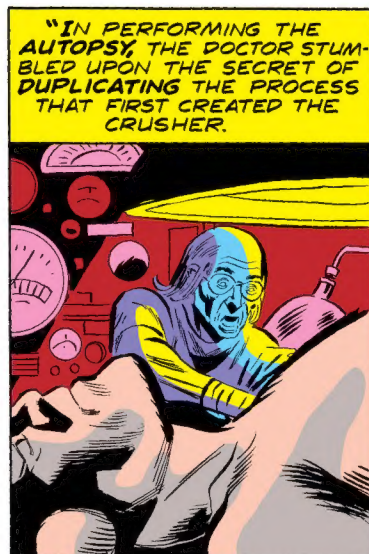
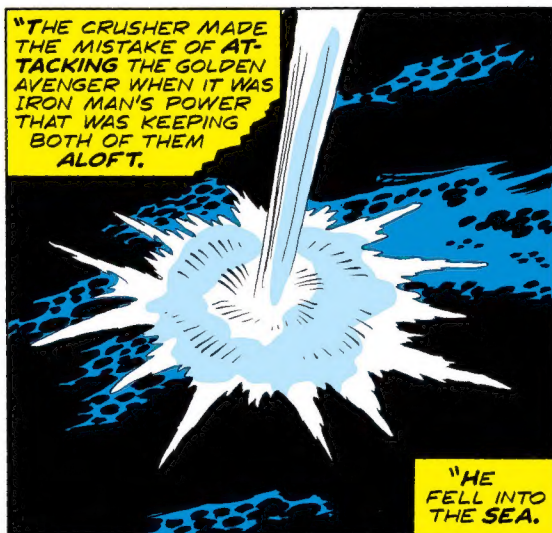
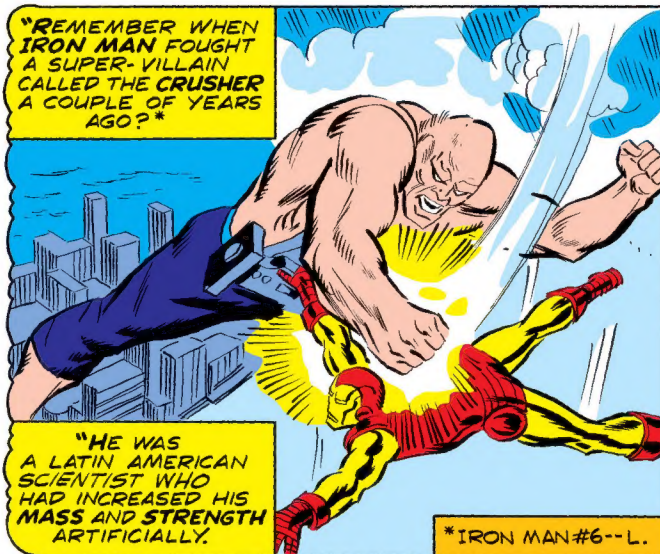


THERE'S A YOUNG MAN WHO'S BEEN COMING HERE TO TRAIN, MR. MURDOCK. HIS NAME IS **JUAN APONTE**. HE'S A BANTAMWEIGHT. FAST, TOUGH, GOOD WITH HIS HANDS. HE CAN GO **FAR**.

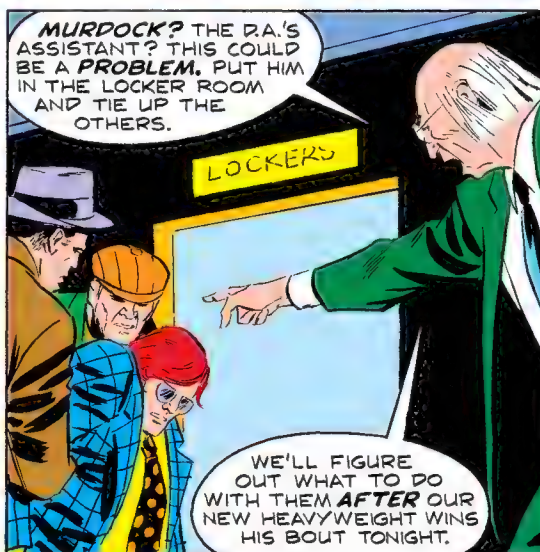
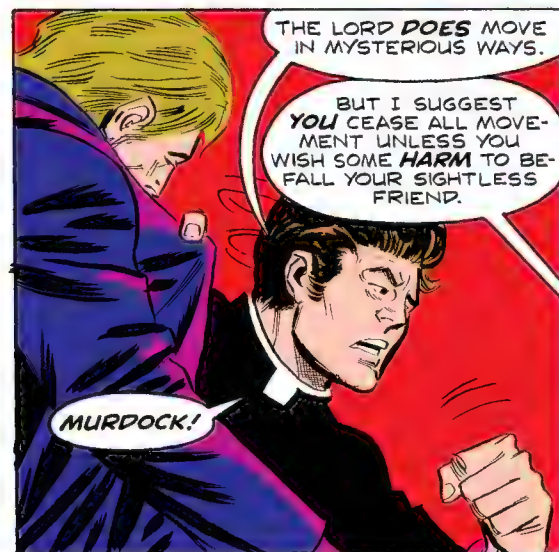
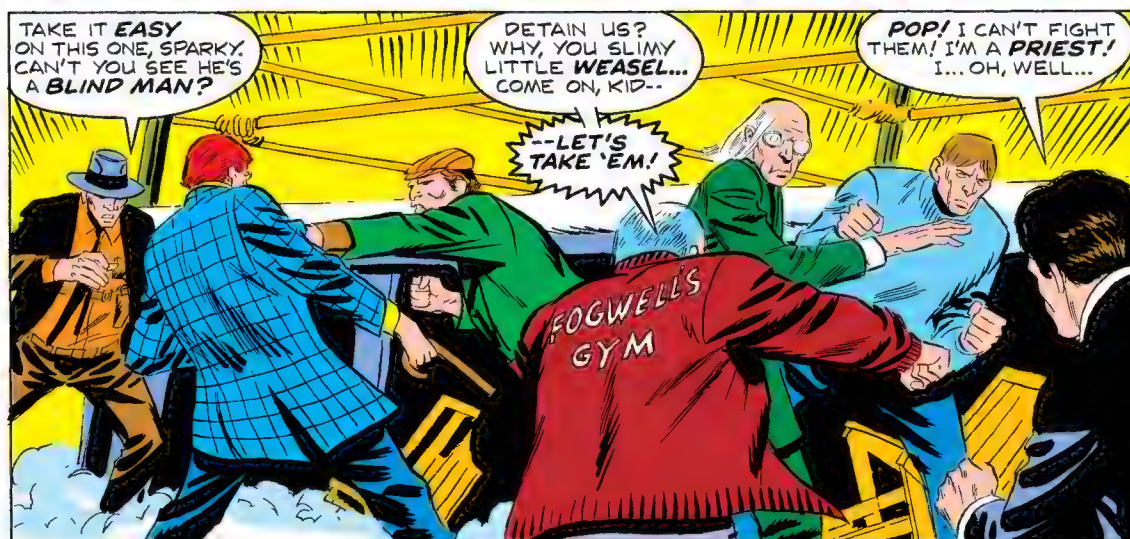
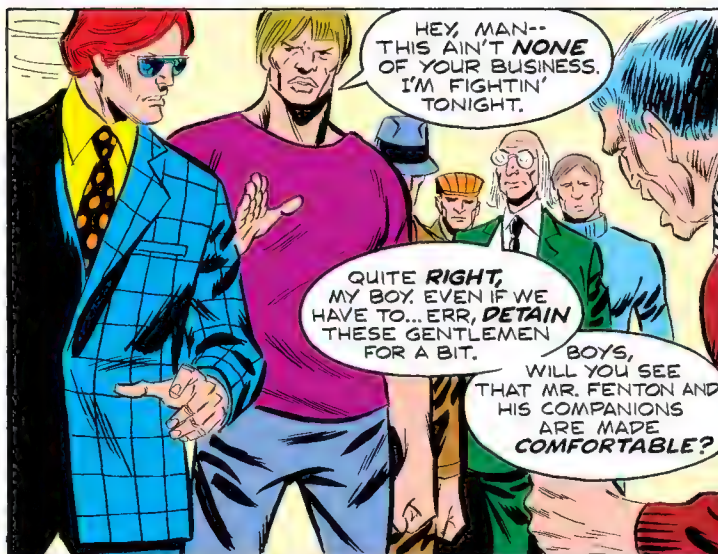
TROUBLE IS, HE'S **AMBITIOUS**. MAYBE **TOO** AMBITIOUS. HE SAYS THERE'S NO **MONEY** TO BE MADE BOXING **BANTAMWEIGHT**.

HE WANTS TO FIGHT **HEAVYWEIGHT**.

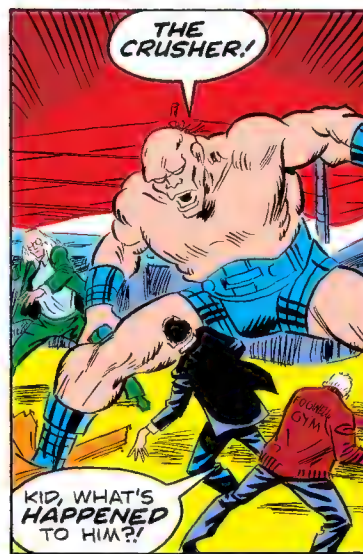
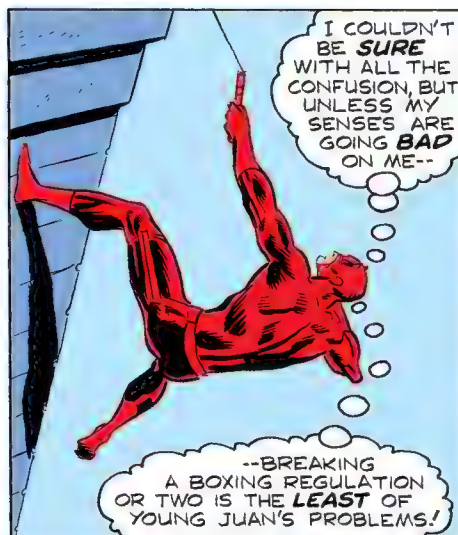
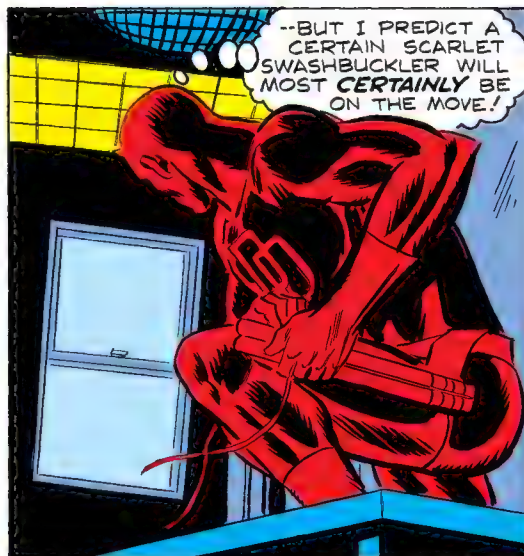
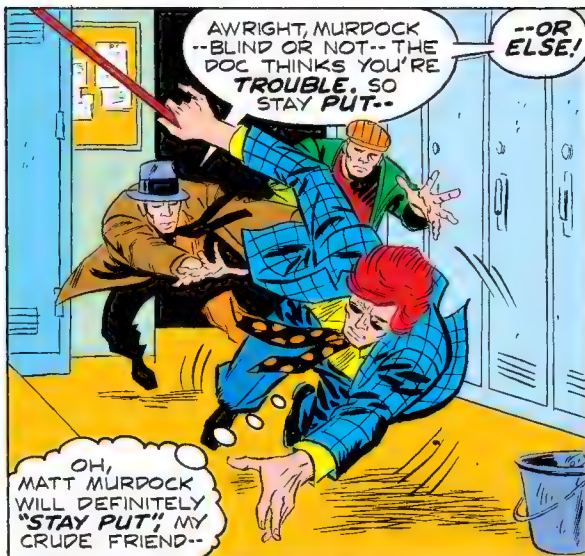














"WHAT'S HAPPENED" IS THAT DR. JAKKELBURR'S TAMPERING WITH JUAN APONTE'S BODY STRUCTURE HAS FINALLY HAD THE UNFORTUNATE SIDE EFFECT FATHER GAWAINE FEARED.

**BRASH!**

AND AS A SOMEWHAT OVER-EAGER MAN WITHOUT FEAR CRASHES THROUGH THE SKYLIGHT AND INTO ACTION, THE GYMNASIUM FLOOR BEGINS TO SHOW THE STRAIN OF THE CRUSHER'S ADDED WEIGHT!

JUAN'S PERSONALITY HAS BEEN SUBMERGED BENEATH THE UNCONTROLLABLE FURY OF THE CRUSHER!

YEOWWW!

**KRACKKK!**

IN SHORT, PEOPLE...

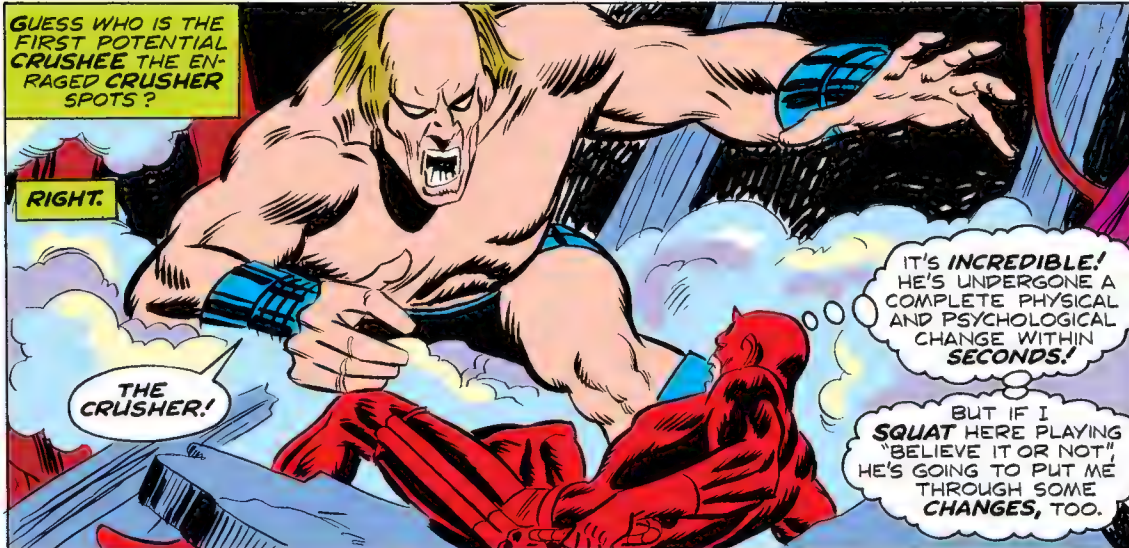
THEY ALL FALL DOWN!

WE'RE BREAKING RIGHT **THROUGH** TO THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE GYM! THIS NEW CRUSHER IS EVEN **HEAVIER** THAN THE ORIGINAL WAS!

**BTOM!**

AND WHEN THE DUST CLEARS...





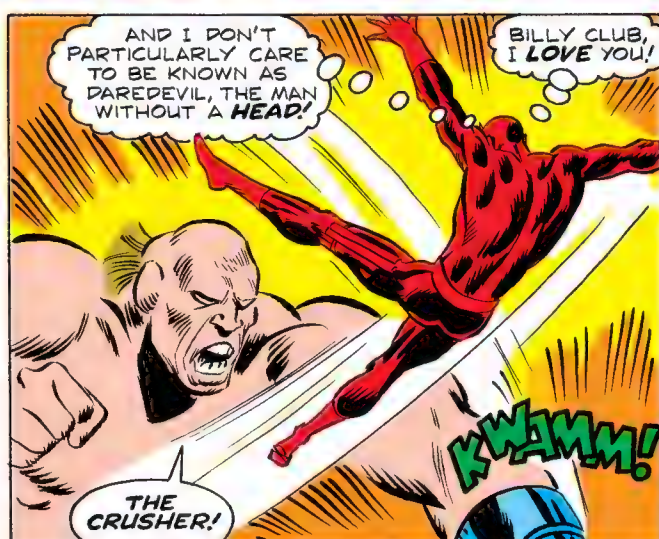
GUESS WHO IS THE FIRST POTENTIAL CRUSHEE THE ENRAGED CRUSHER SPOTS?

RIGHT.

THE CRUSHER!

IT'S INCREDIBLE! HE'S UNDERGONE A COMPLETE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGE WITHIN SECONDS!

BUT IF I SQUAT HERE PLAYING "BELIEVE IT OR NOT," HE'S GOING TO PUT ME THROUGH SOME CHANGES, TOO.



AND I DON'T PARTICULARLY CARE TO BE KNOWN AS DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT A HEAD!

BILLY CLUB, I LOVE YOU!

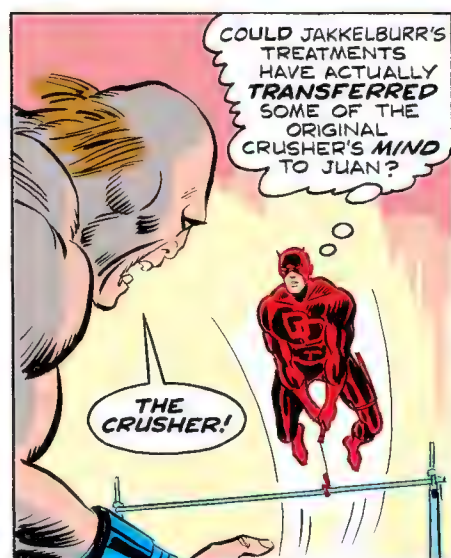
KWAMM!

THE CRUSHER!



I WANT TO HELP JUAN, BUT IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THERE'S NO GETTING THROUGH TO HIM IN HIS CURRENT STATE!

THE WAY HE JUST KEEPS REPEATING THE NAME "THE CRUSHER"...



COULD JAKKELBURR'S TREATMENTS HAVE ACTUALLY TRANSFERRED SOME OF THE ORIGINAL CRUSHER'S MIND TO JUAN?

THE CRUSHER!

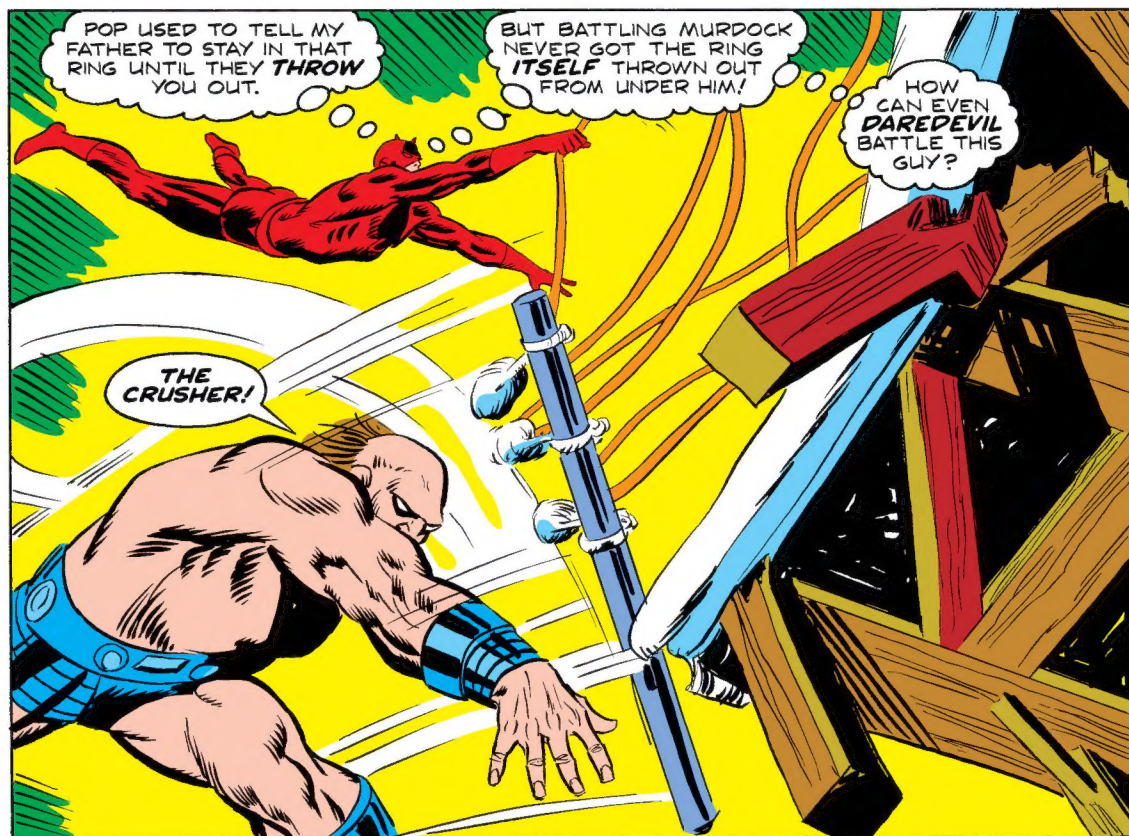
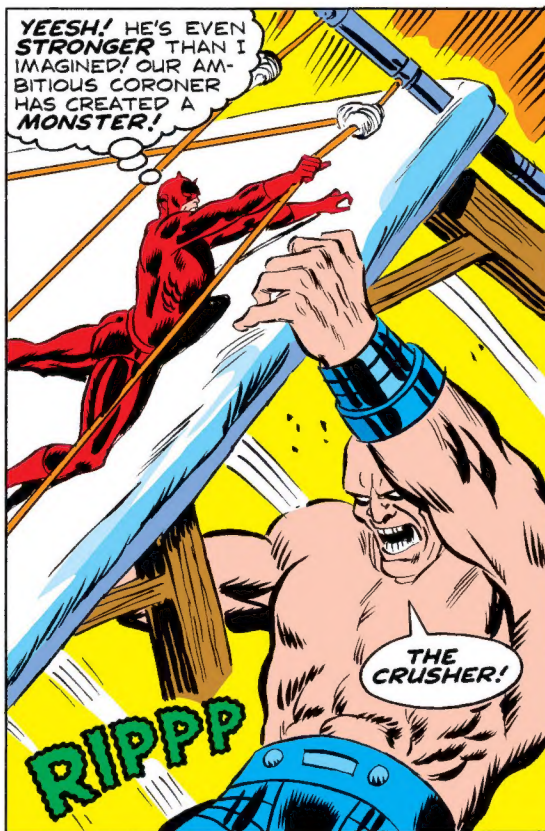
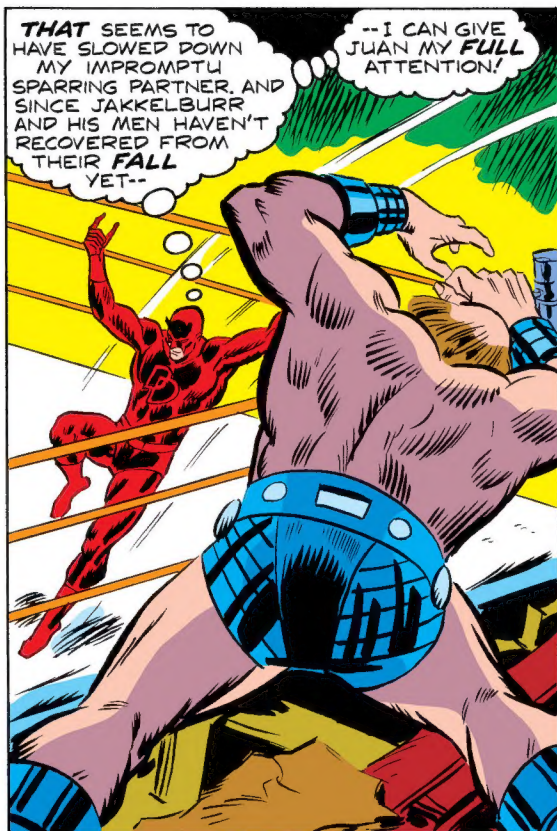


WELL, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, BEFORE WE'LL BE ABLE TO CURE JUAN--

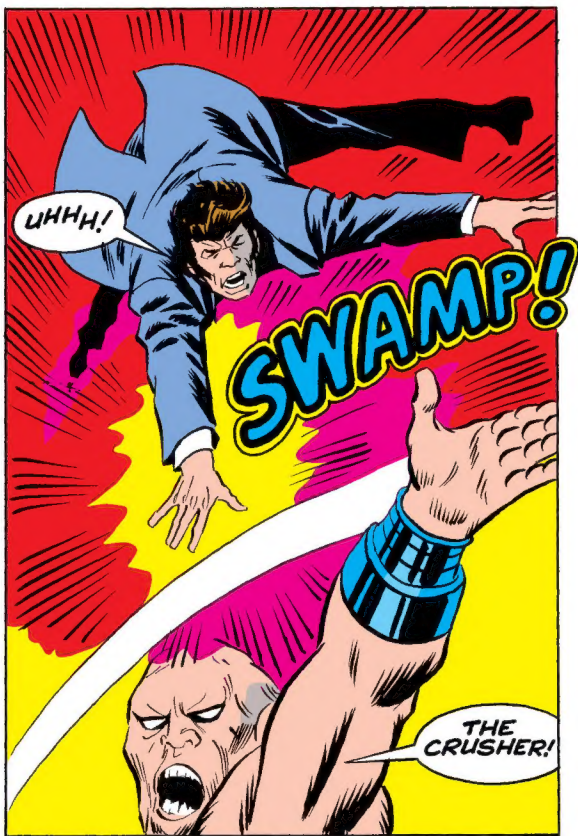
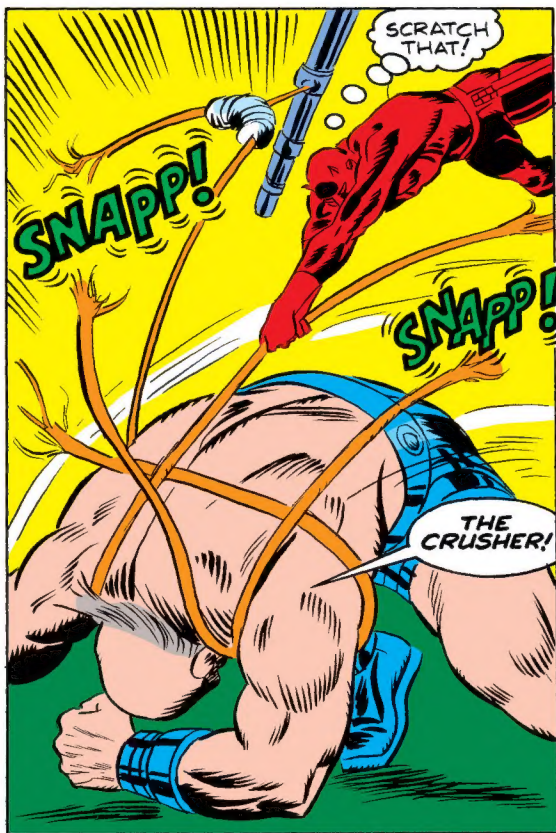
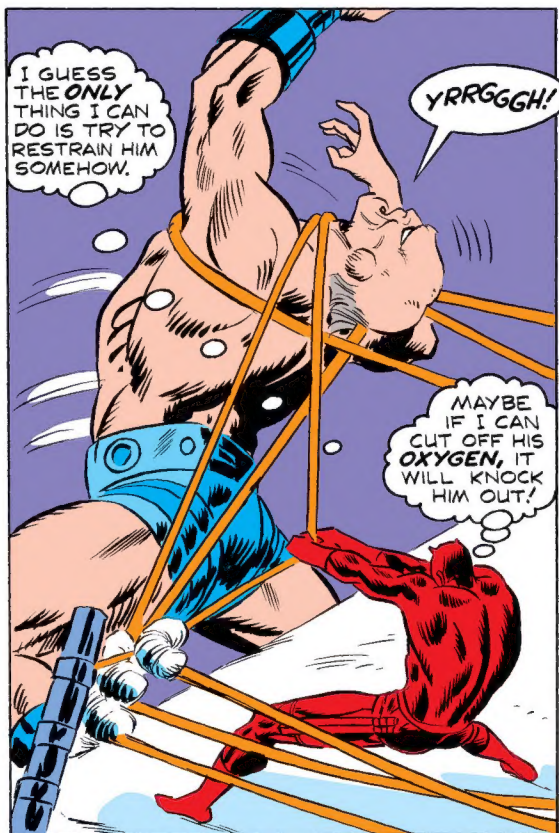
--I'VE GOT TO CLOBBER HIM!

THOK!















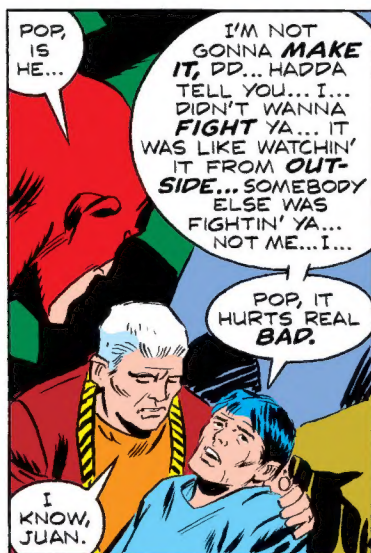
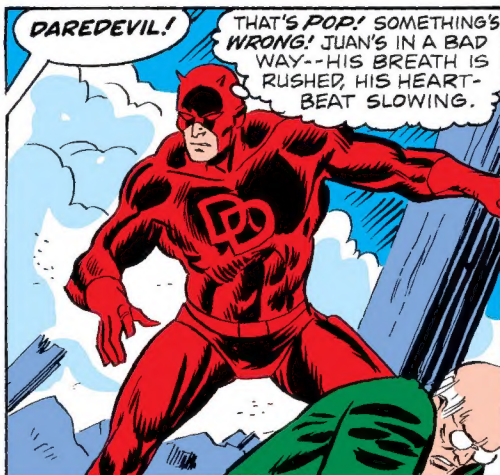
EVEN SOLID FOUNDATIONS CAN FALL.

BUT SOMETIMES WHAT IS BUILT ON THEM ENDURES FAR LONGER THAN MERE STONE AND MORTAR.

HE MOVED SO FAST I COULD HARDLY **SENSE** HIM-- BUT JUAN MANAGED TO THROW **HIS** BODY BETWEEN THE WALL AND ITS ALMOST-TARGETS!

UH-OH! SOUNDS LIKE THE DOC AND HIS BOYS'RE TRYING TO MAKE A **BREAK** FOR IT. NO--

IT'S JUAN, KID! HE **SAVED** US!



**NEXT ISSUE:**

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MAN WITHOUT FEAR

...and a **HYDRA** new year!"